

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /066 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5356

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20821

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TREASURY AND DEFENSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN: GW

SUBJECT: PRESS STORIES ON UK/GERMAN OFFSET

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GERMAN PRESS TODAY CONTAINS SHORT DPA REPORT DATED LONDON THAT THE GERMAN AND BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICES ARE PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING A NEW OFFSET FOR THE BRITISH TROOPS IN THE FRG. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS STORIES TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN JANUARY SINCE THE OLD UK/GERMAN OFFSET EXPIRES IN MARCH. THE PRESS REPORT CONTINUES THAT WHILE SO FAR NO NUMBERS HAVE BEEN NAMED, OBSERVERS IN LONDON EXPECT THAT THE BRITISH SIDE WILL DEMAND CONSIDERABLY HIGHER PAYMENTS THAN THE ANNUAL DM 110 MILLION PAID, IN ADDITION TO MILITARY ORDERS, UNDER THE 71/75 OFFSET. THE PRESS REPORT PUTS THE COST OF THE BRITISH TROOPS IN GERMANY AT 348 MILLION POUNDS BUT ADDS THAT ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL REPORTS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THESE COSTS TO INCREASE TO 450 MILLION POUNDS DURING FISCAL YEAR 76/77. ENC UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. FOREIGN OFFICE (MUEHLEN) TELLS

US THAT THE GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE HAS "NO COMMENT
WHATSOEVER" ON THE ABOVE REPORT ORIGINATING FROM LONDON.
HE POINTS OUT TO US CONFIDENTIALLY THAT THE CHANCELLOR
HAS RESERVED TO HIMSELF THE DECISIONS ON ALL OFFSET
QUESTIONS AND IT IS FAR FROM CERTAIN WHETHER BRITISH/
GERMAN TALKS WILL IN FACT COMMENCE IN JANUARY.

3. COMMENT. WHILE THE ABOVE PRESS REPORTS HAVE NOT SO
FAR ATTRACTED MAJOR ATTENTION AND ARE BURIED ON INSIDE
PAGES, THEY NEVERTHELESS MAY INSPIRE INQUIRIES REGARDING
STATUS OF US/GERMAN OFFSET CONTACTS. END CONFIDENTIAL
HILLENBRAND

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